



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

November 2021

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit



Part I Total Crime

A review of serious crime statistics for the first eleven months of 2021 indicates an increase of 8% in the Part One index total for Cambridge when compared with the same time period in 2020. Over the first 47 weeks of this year, there were 2,389 serious crimes reported in the City. Through November 29th in 2020, the combined total for Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny & Auto theft was 2,213 incidents, 176 fewer than this year. When measured against the five-year average, a slightly higher escalation of 9% in the crime index has been recorded.

Further analysis of the crime totals between January 1st & November 29th of 2021 indicates that violent crimes recorded a minor 6% uptick when compared with last year, and property crimes crept upward 8% with 160 additional crimes reported when compared with the first eleven months of 2020. The violent crime breakdown in the City so far in 2021 consists of one homicide, 25 rapes, 67 robberies, and 189 aggravated assaults.

The 33% escalation upward in larcenies from motor vehicles and the 3% increase in larcenies of bicycles when compared with the first eleven months of 2020 have been the key trend indicators fueling the moderate crime rise so far in 2021. These two categories of larceny have accounted for 42% of the total crime index so far in this year.

When reviewing the serious crime totals of November 2021 versus the previous month of October, there has been a measurable incline of 13% in the number of index incidents, with 25 additional crimes reported.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	10/5/21 - 11/1/21	11/2/21 - 11/29/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	24	27	13%	266	282	6%	275	3%
Total Property Crime	176	198	13%	1947	2107	8%	1910	10%
Total Part I Crime	200	225	13%	2213	2389	8%	2185	9%



Part I Property Crime

Analysis of property crime totals for the first eleven months of 2021 indicates an 8% increase when measured against the 2020 totals and an 10% uptick above the five-year average, with 160 additional incidents above the total through November 29th of last year and 197 additional crimes above the 1,910 forecasted for this time period.

Multiple property crime categories recorded significant increases when measured against the first eleven months of 2020, most notably a 33% jump in larceny from motor vehicles, fueled by a regional pattern of the thefts of catalytic converters, and a 40% hike in bike thefts above the 5-year average, which has been a persistent problem throughout the Covid period.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	10/5/21 - 11/1/21	11/2/21 - 11/29/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	18	20	11%	173	192	11%	193	-1%
Commercial Break	7	4	-43%	54	72	33%	46	57%
Housebreak	11	16	45%	119	120	1%	147	-18%
Larceny	148	170	15%	1695	1800	6%	1624	11%
Larceny (Misc)	5	6	20%	36	53	47%	37	43%
Larceny from Building	12	15	25%	117	125	7%	195	-36%
Larceny from MV	26	38	46%	305	407	33%	270	51%
Larceny from Person	5	14	180%	88	94	7%	133	-29%
Larceny from Residence	24	22	-8%	318	320	1%	243	32%
Larceny of Bicycle	56	48	-14%	572	592	3%	422	40%
Larceny of Plate	1	4	300%	9	26	189%	17	53%
Larceny of Services	0	1	IN-CALC	4	5	25%	15	-67%
Shoplifting	19	22	16%	246	178	-28%	291	-39%
Auto Theft	10	8	-20%	79	115	46%	93	24%
Total Property Crime	176	198	13%	1947	2107	8%	1910	10%



Part I Violent Crime

For the first eleven months of 2021, there were 282 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge, 16 incidents (+6%) above last year's total of 266 and seven incidents (+3%) above the number forecasted for the 5-year average through November 29th of this year.

There have been 67 robberies reported in the first eleven months of 2021. Eleven of these incidents have been categorized as commercial and 56 classified as street incidents, to register a 14% increase when compared with 2020. Twenty-five rapes have been reported so far in 2021, one fewer than was counted for this time period last year. There have been 189 aggravated assaults recorded over the first 47 weeks of 2021, nine above the number reported in 2020. The 2021 total also currently represents a 9% jump above the 173 assaults forecasted for this time period.

On Saturday 3/27, there was a fatal shooting that occurred at approximately 12:40 a.m. on Pemberton Street. The victim was reportedly located unconscious outside his vehicle by a passerby who called 911. The victim was transported to Mount Auburn Hospital where he later died. The victim has been identified as Xavier Louis-Jacques, 19, of Cambridge.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	10/5/21 - 11/1/21	11/2/21 - 11/29/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	1	1	0%	1	0%
Rape	2	3	50%	26	25	-4%	26	-4%
Robbery	5	8	60%	59	67	14%	75	-11%
Commercial Robbery	0	1	IN-CALC	12	11	-8%	20	-45%
Street Robbery	5	7	40%	47	56	19%	54	4%
Aggravated Assault	17	16	-6%	180	189	5%	173	9%
Total Violent Crime	24	27	13%	266	282	6%	275	3%



MURDER

No Patterns

- On Saturday 3/27, there was a fatal shooting that occurred at approximately 12:40 a.m. on Pemberton Street. The victim was reportedly located unconscious outside his vehicle by a passerby who called 911. The victim was transported to Mount Auburn Hospital where he later died. The victim has been identified as Xavier Louis-Jacques, 19, of Cambridge. The investigation is ongoing.
- On April 23, 2020, Jose Bermudez was arrested for the fatal daylight stabbing of 33-year-old Danilo Perez in Central Square on April 14. Bermudez and Perez were both part of the homeless community and were known to each other. Bermudez is being held without bail. This was the first homicide reported in Cambridge since January of 2019 and it ended up being the only homicide recorded in 2020.
- There was one murder in Cambridge in 2019. The Middlesex DA's Office and the Cambridge Police are asking for public assistance regarding the ongoing investigation into the fatal incident that occurred in the New Street area of Danehy Park around 6:30PM on the night of January 2nd, 2019. This incident is being investigated as a homicide. The preliminary investigation suggests that the victim, 60-year-old Paul Wilson, died as a result of blunt force trauma and that robbery does not appear to have been the motive.
- On July 22, 2018, 15-year-old Richelle Robinson of Cambridge died following an assault in which she was shoved to the ground on Cambridge Street. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner later ruled the cause of death to be blunt force trauma. On July 30, 2019, following an investigation, Isaias Plaza (4/7/00, homeless) was arraigned on charges of manslaughter and assault and battery causing serious bodily injury in connection with Robinson's death. Plaza plead guilty to manslaughter on March 26, 2021, and was sentenced to 2.5 years.

Percent Change*

Last 4 Weeks

In-Calc

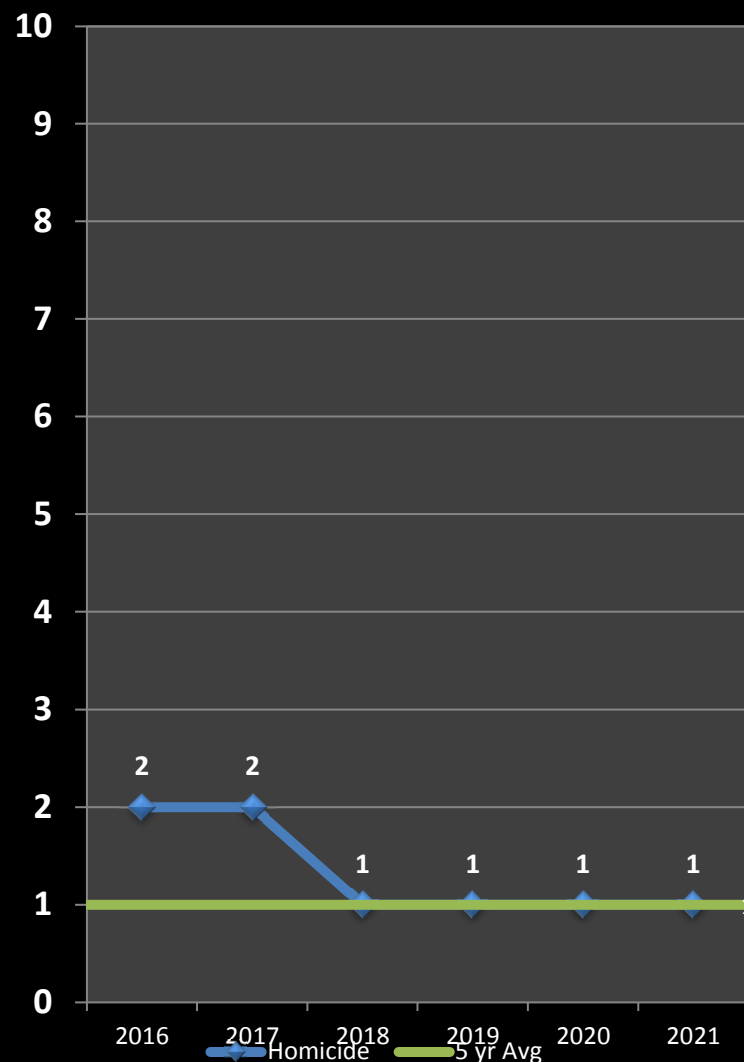
Previous Year

0%

5-Year Average

0%

*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





RAPE

No Patterns

- Twenty-five rapes were reported during the first eleven months of 2021, one fewer than reported during the same time frame last year. The current total is also one less than the five-year average of 26.
- All three rapes recorded during November were categorized as acquaintance incidents.
- The sexual assaults so far in 2021 have been classified as eight domestic situations, eleven involving acquaintances as the predator, five contact incidents, and a homeless/blitz scenario in Harvard Square that is under investigation.
- There were 27 rapes reported in 2020, one less than in 2019. The five-year average for 2020 projected to 28 rapes being recorded in Cambridge, which was one above the final total.
- The 27 rapes in Cambridge in 2020 were categorized in the following manner: nine incidents were chronicled as domestic situations, nine were classified as acquaintance assaults, five were contact incidents, and four were blitz scenarios, one of which was an incident in the Alewife section of the City that remains under investigation.
- The total number of reported rapes tends to fluctuate from year to year, but the number of stranger-to-stranger rapes reported each year in Cambridge—between one and five—remains extremely low.

Percent Change*

Last 4 Weeks

+50%

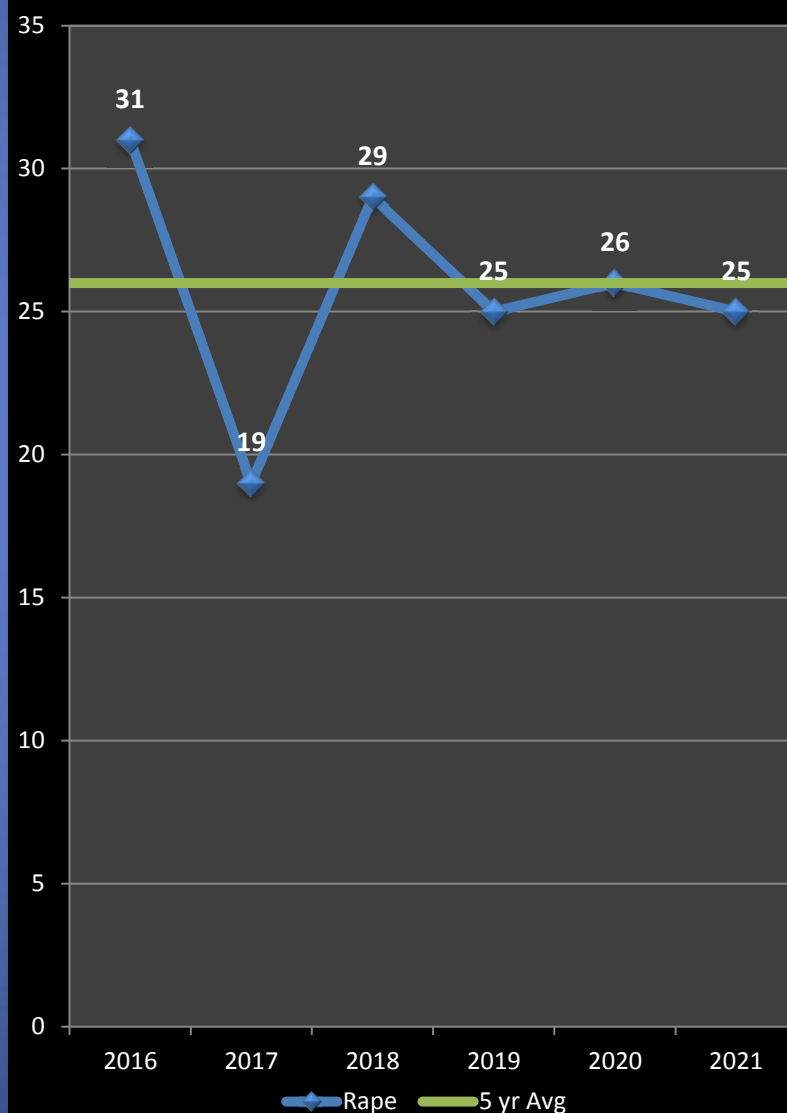
Previous Year

-4%

5-Year Average

-4%

*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

No Patterns

- The aggravated assault total for the first eleven months of 2021 was nine incidents (+5%) above the total for the same time period in 2020. The total of 189 aggravated assaults reported over the first 47 weeks of the year was 16 crimes (+9%) above the 173 incidents forecasted for the five-year average.
- The 189 aggravated assaults reported through November 29th of 2021 were composed of the following classifications: 39 unprovoked scenarios; 35 domestic altercations; 32 altercations between acquaintances; 16 traffic & parking related assaults; 16 assaults between individuals who are homeless; 13 juvenile incidents; 9 psychotic episodes; 8 affrays; 6 landlord/neighbor assaults; 5 shop owner/patron assaults; 3 drug deal assaults; 3 assaults on police officers; 3 bar/alcohol related assaults; and one workplace incident.
- Through November 29th of this year, there have been 13 reports of shots fired citywide, seven of which resulted in gunshot wounds (including the fatal shooting on 3/27/21 in North Cambridge). The last shots fired incident in Cambridge was on November 19 in East Cambridge; no injuries were reported, and an arrest has been made. See maps on slides 9-10 for more info on each of the shootings.
- Through November 29th of last year (2020), six shots fired incidents were reported. By the end of 2020, there had been seven reports of shots fired, none of which resulted in any injuries.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

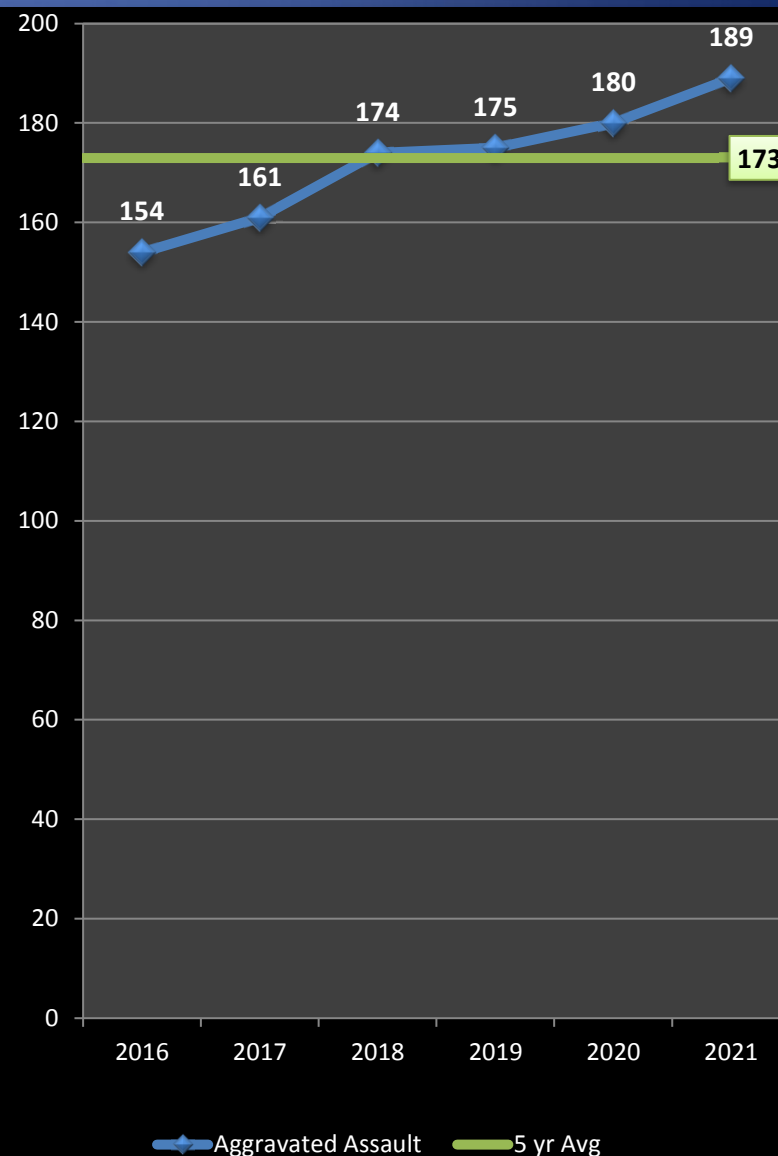
-6%

Previous Year

+5%

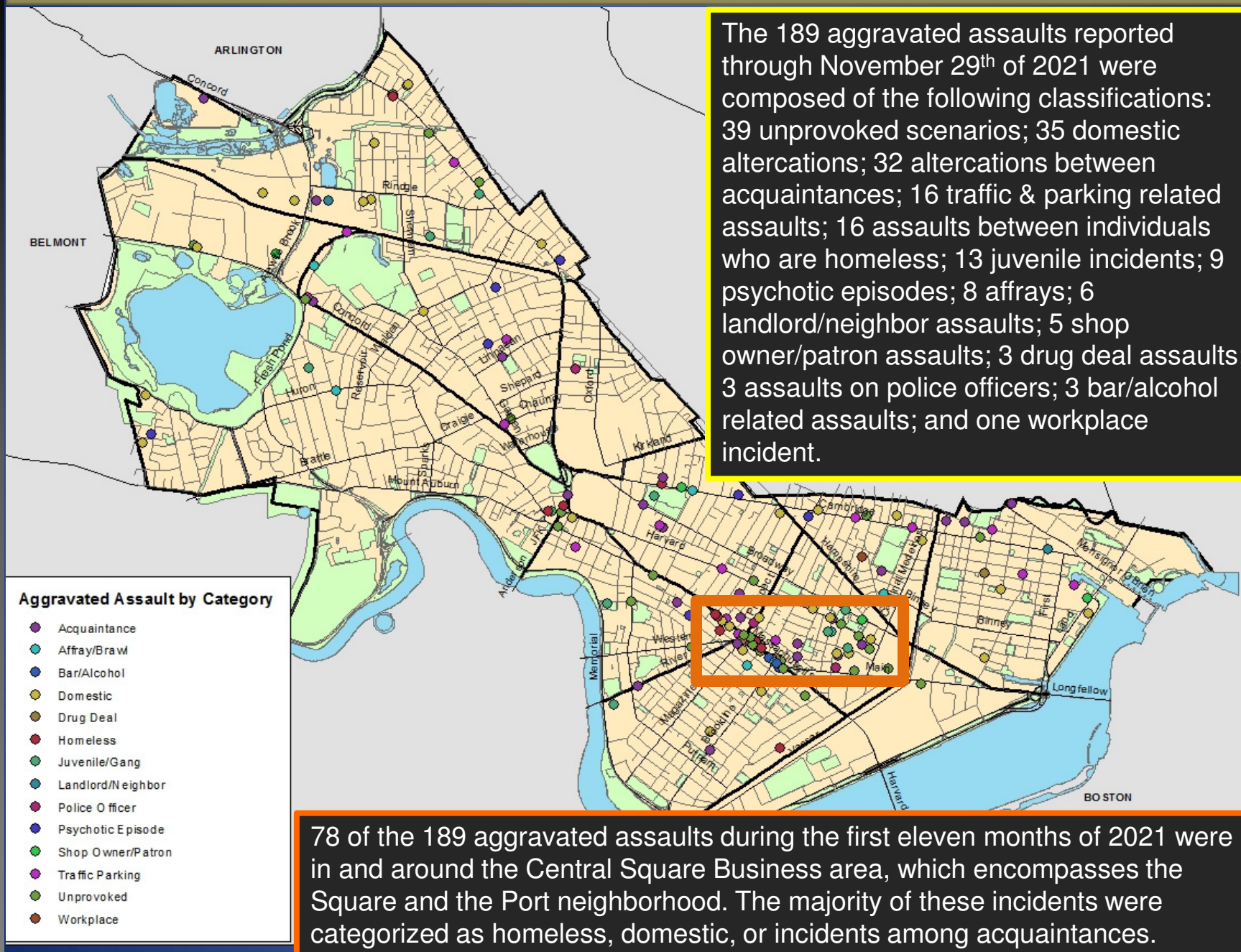
5-Year Average

+9%



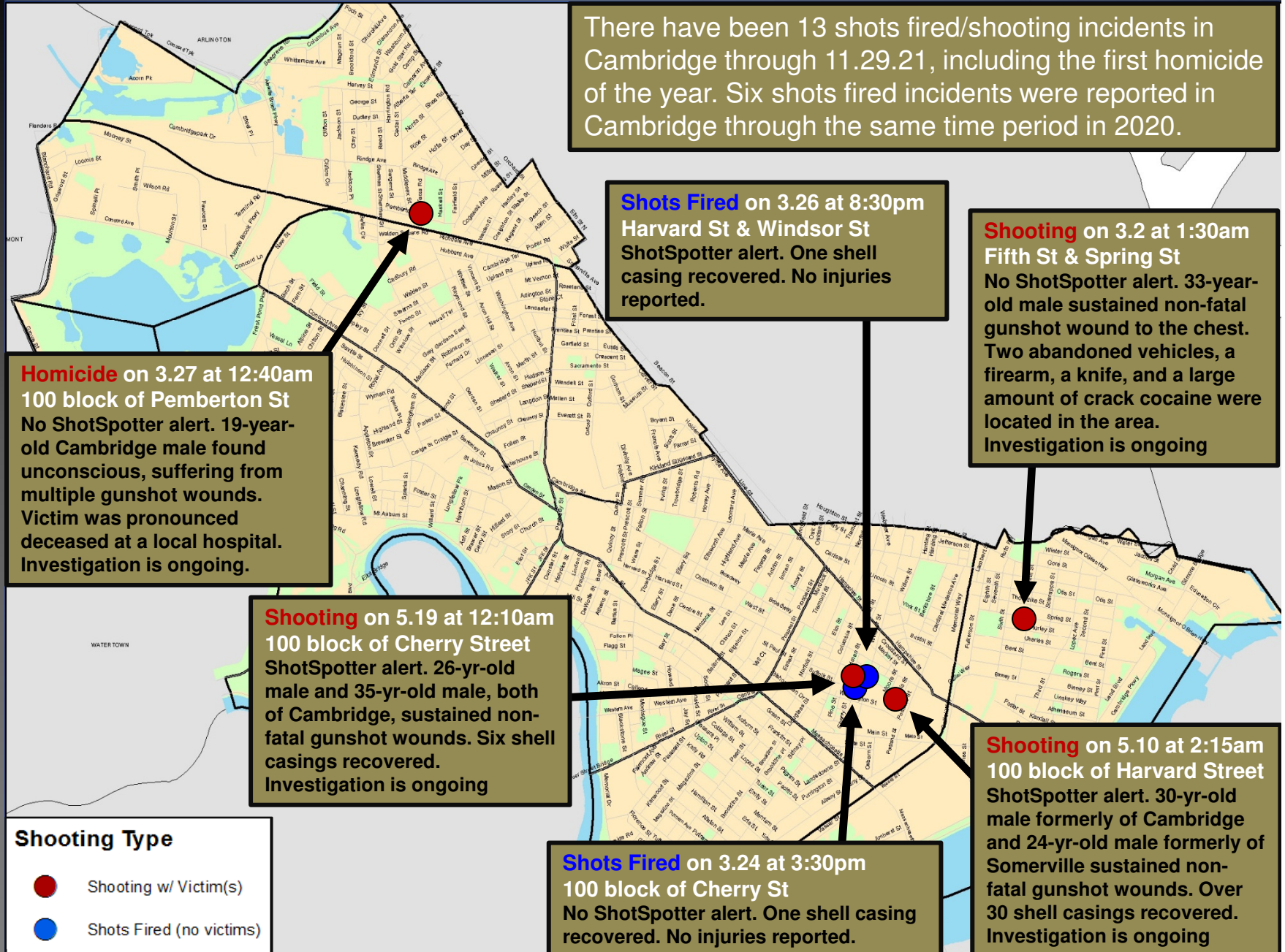


Geographic Breakdown of Aggravated Assault: 1.1.21 – 11.29.21



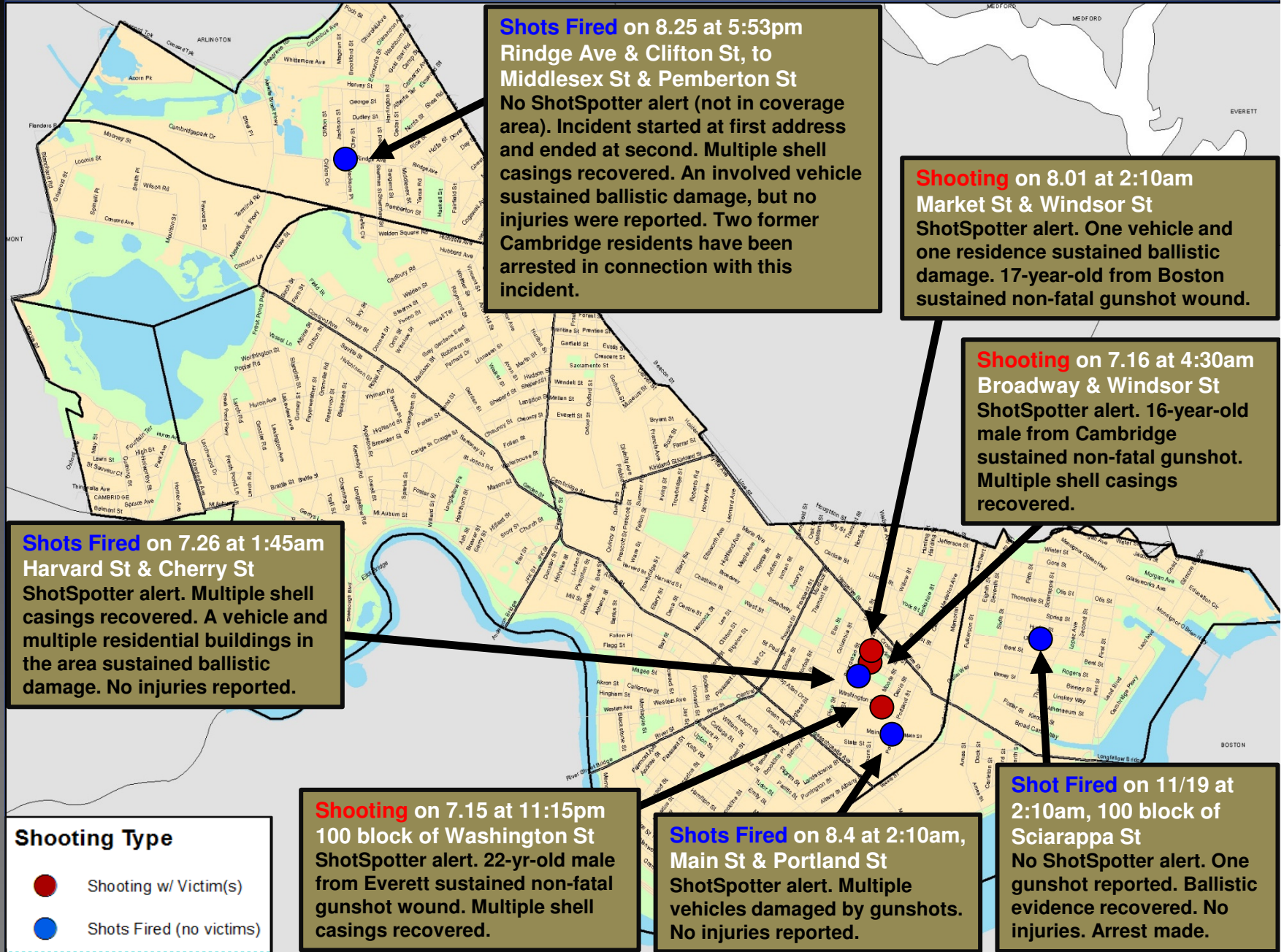


Shootings & Shots Fired in Cambridge: 1.1.21 – 6.30.21





Shootings & Shots Fired in Cambridge: 7.1.21 – 11.29.21





Robbery

No Patterns

- The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first eleven months of the year is 75 incidents. The total through November 29th of 2021 was 67 crimes, eight incidents (11%) below the number forecasted for that time period. Over the first eleven months of 2021, the 67 robberies that were recorded pointed to a 14% increase (eight incidents) above the 59 robberies counted for the first same time period in 2020.
- There were eleven commercial robberies recorded in Cambridge during the first eleven months of this year, one less than was counted during the same time period of 2020 and 45% below the five-year average of 20. There was one commercial robbery reported in November, and only four reported since the end of May.
- Over the first eleven months of 2021, there were 56 street robberies reported, nine above the number that was recorded over the first 47 weeks of last year and two incidents (+4%) above the 54 forecasted for the 5-year average. Three of the eight street robberies in November were committed late at night in and around the periphery of Central Square and involved individuals who were homeless. Two were unrelated home invasions in East Cambridge, both of which resulted in arrests.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

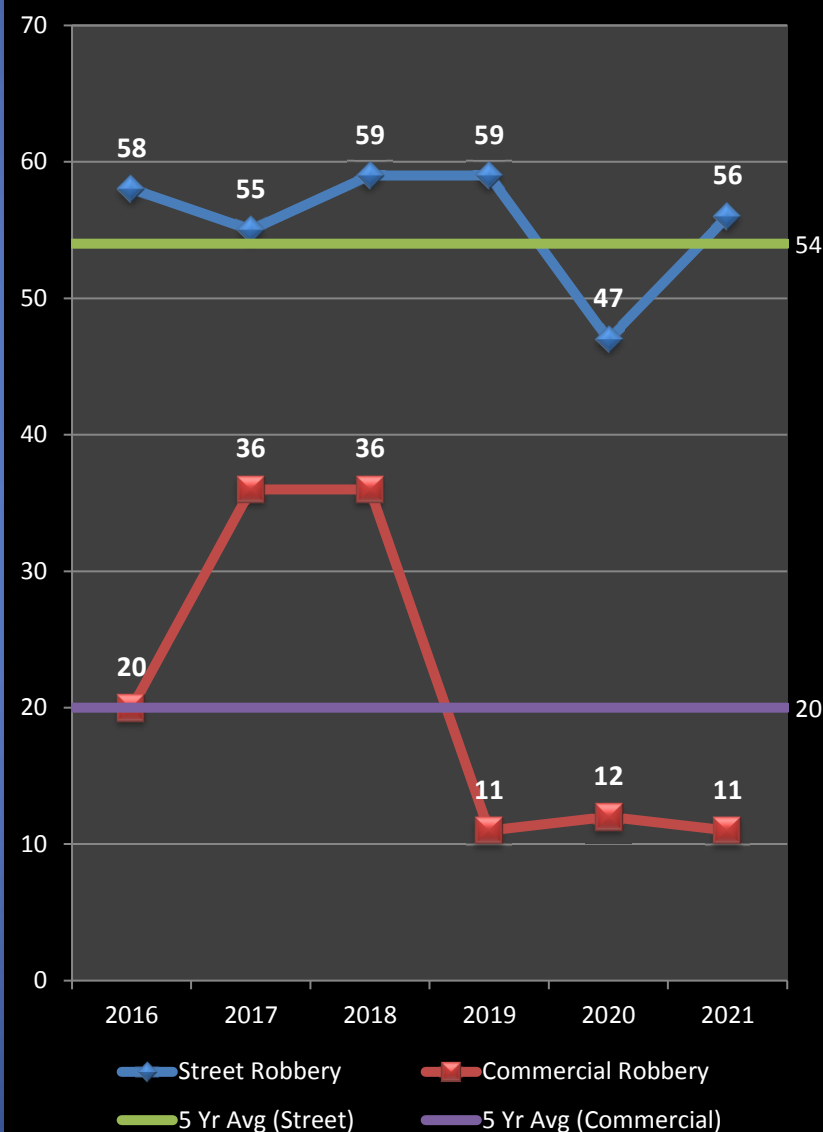
+60%

Previous Year

+14%

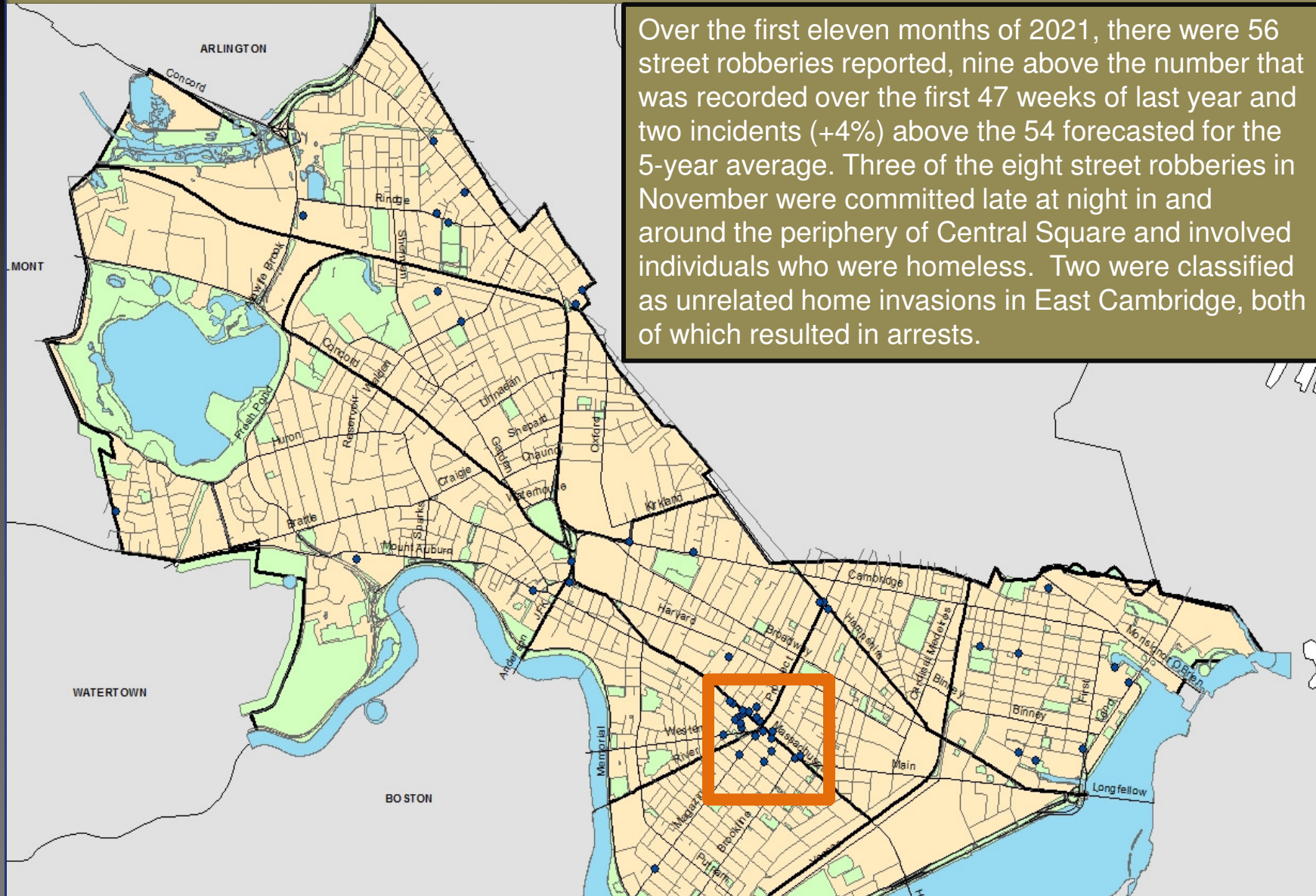
5-Year Average

-11%





Geographic Breakdown of Street Robbery: 1.1.21 – 11.29.21



26 of the street robberies in 2021 have been in—or on adjacent side streets near—Central Sq. These incidents include: Fifteen robberies in the 500-800 block of Mass, ten robberies in the Pearl/Green/Franklin/Pleasant St area, and one robbery on Temple St.



Burglary

No Patterns

- The property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, has recorded a moderate increase of 11% in 2021 above the first eleven months of last year. When measured versus the five-year average of 193 burglaries, the total of 192 incidents in 2021 indicates a minor decline of one incident (-1%).
- Since the start of the COVID-19 period, the crime of commercial burglary has been on the rise. Commercial breaks in 2021 have increased by 33% when compared with the first eleven months of 2020 and have surged upward 57% over the forecasted number for the first 47 weeks of the year. A prolific, habitual offender was arrested and linked to multiple commercial breaks throughout the lower half of the City in July; this arrest helped propel a downward surge with only 16 breaks reported in the past 4 months.
- A breakdown of commercial breaks through November 29th of 2021 by business area: Bay Square – 14 (9 over the Summer); Central Square – 14; Harvard Square – 9; Galleria/East – 7; Inman Square – 6; Alewife – 7; 1500 to 1900 Mass Ave – 5; Kendall/MIT – 5; Cambridge port/Riverside – 3; and Porter Square - 2.
- Currently, there are no housebreak patterns in Cambridge. For the first eleven months of the 2021, a minimal increase of 1% has been recorded, with one additional break reported. Ninety-three of the 120 housebreaks counted in 2021 have been in the lower-half of the City below Harvard Square.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

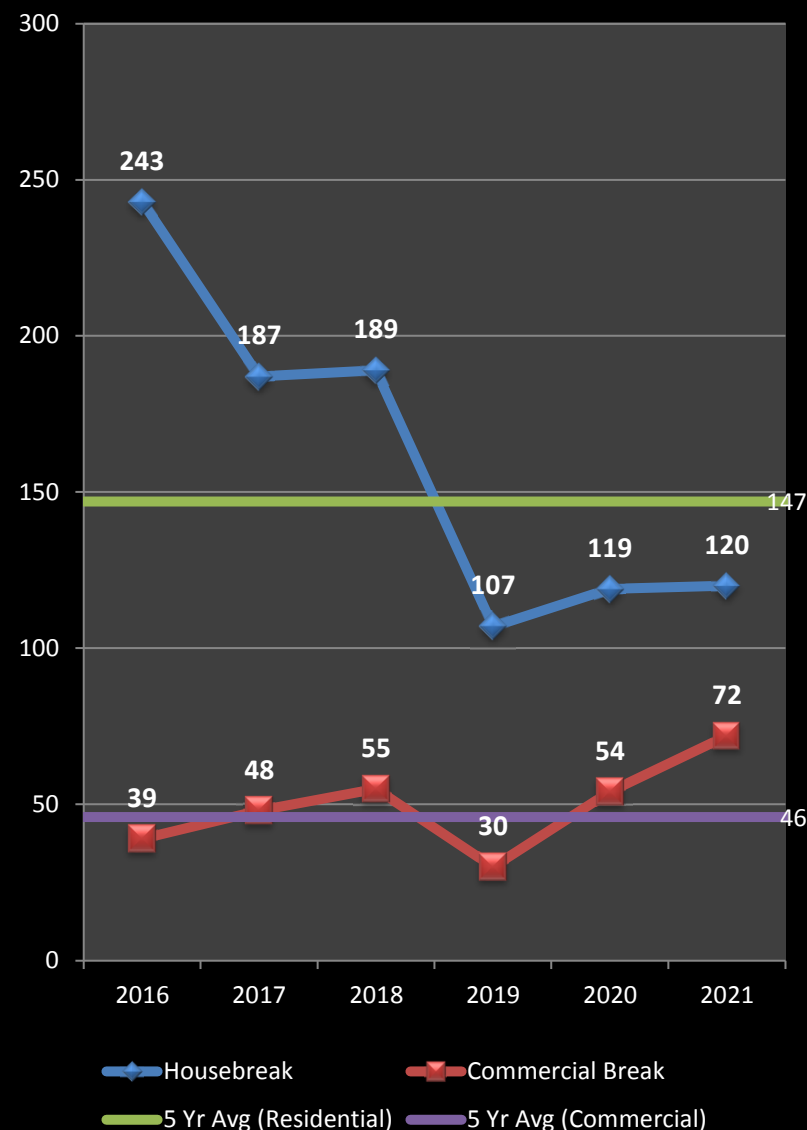
+11%

Previous Year

+11%

5-Year Average

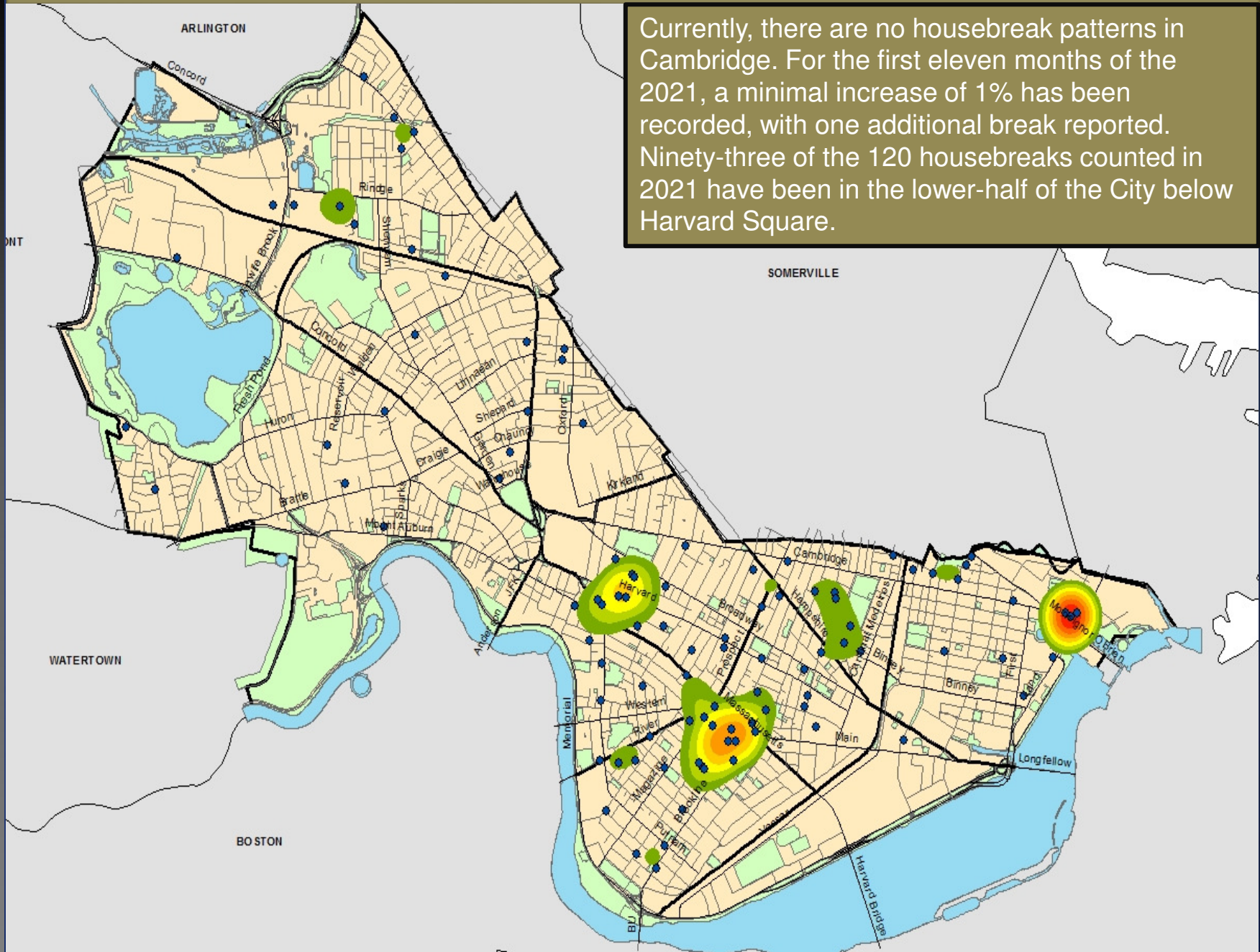
-1%





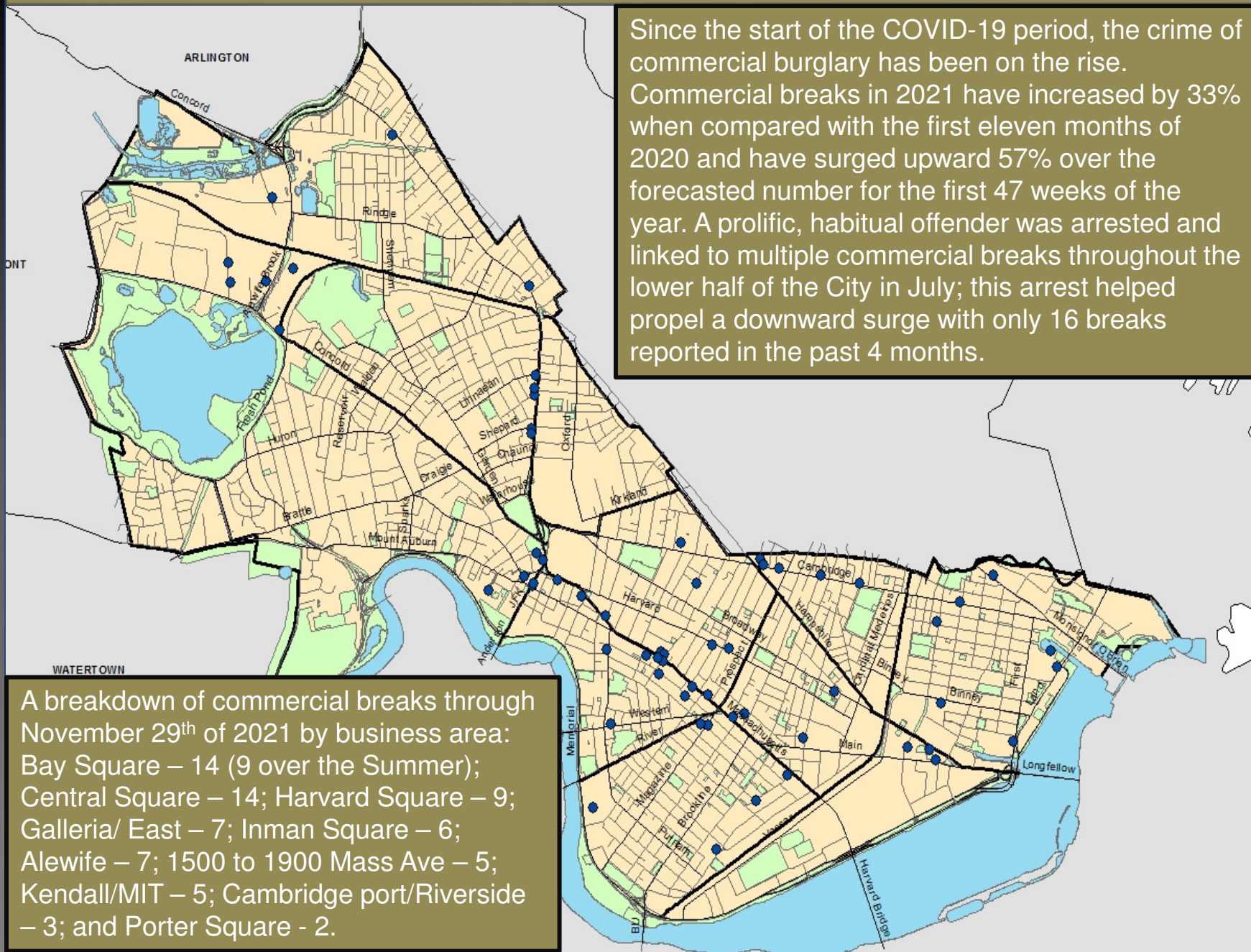
Geographic Breakdown of Housebreaks: 1.1.21 – 11.29.21

Currently, there are no housebreak patterns in Cambridge. For the first eleven months of the 2021, a minimal increase of 1% has been recorded, with one additional break reported. Ninety-three of the 120 housebreaks counted in 2021 have been in the lower-half of the City below Harvard Square.





Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Breaks: 1.1.21 – 11.29.21





LARCENY

No Patterns

- **Overall larceny through 11/29/21 registered at 1,800 incidents, 6% above the same time frame in 2020.** The total of 1,800 larcenies reported year-to-date in 2021 is also 11% above the 5-year average of 1,624 incidents through 11/29.
- **The larceny from motor vehicles total for the first 11 months of 2021 is 407 incidents, which is 33% above the total for the same time period in 2020.** The 407 thefts reported also indicates an increase of 137 incidents (+51%) above the number forecasted through the first 47 weeks of 2021. Much of this upsurge can be attributed to the large number of catalytic converter thefts that occurred in January, February and August, and a smaller concentration in November.
- **Through November 29, 2021, there have been 94 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, up six incidents (7%) when compared to the same time period in 2020.** The 2021 total year-to-date is down 29% from the 5-year average of 133, likely due to the pandemic. Central Square has seen the most activity so far with 53 incidents.
- **There have been 125 larcenies from buildings reported through November 29, 2021.** This is 8 incidents (7%) above the same time frame in 2020 and 70 incidents (36%) below the 5-year average. With gyms and public buildings closed or at limited capacity for a good portion of the beginning of the year, it is no surprise that this category has decreased compared to the average.
- **Larcenies from residences are up by 2 incidents (1%) through 11/29/21 when compared with the same time in 2020.** Package thefts have made up the majority of this crime type in recent years and have registered even higher than average in 2020 and 2021, likely due to the increased volume of deliveries during the pandemic. Package thefts have accounted for 214 (or 67%) of the 320 larcenies from residences in 2021.
- **Larceny of bicycles continues to be one of the major property crimes seen in 2021, with 20 more bike thefts reported in 2021 than during the same time frame in 2020 (+3%).** Bike thefts are also up 40% (170 thefts) over the five-year average. Cambridgeport and North Cambridge have seen the most bike thefts year-to-date with 96 incidents each (combined they account for 32% of the citywide total).

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

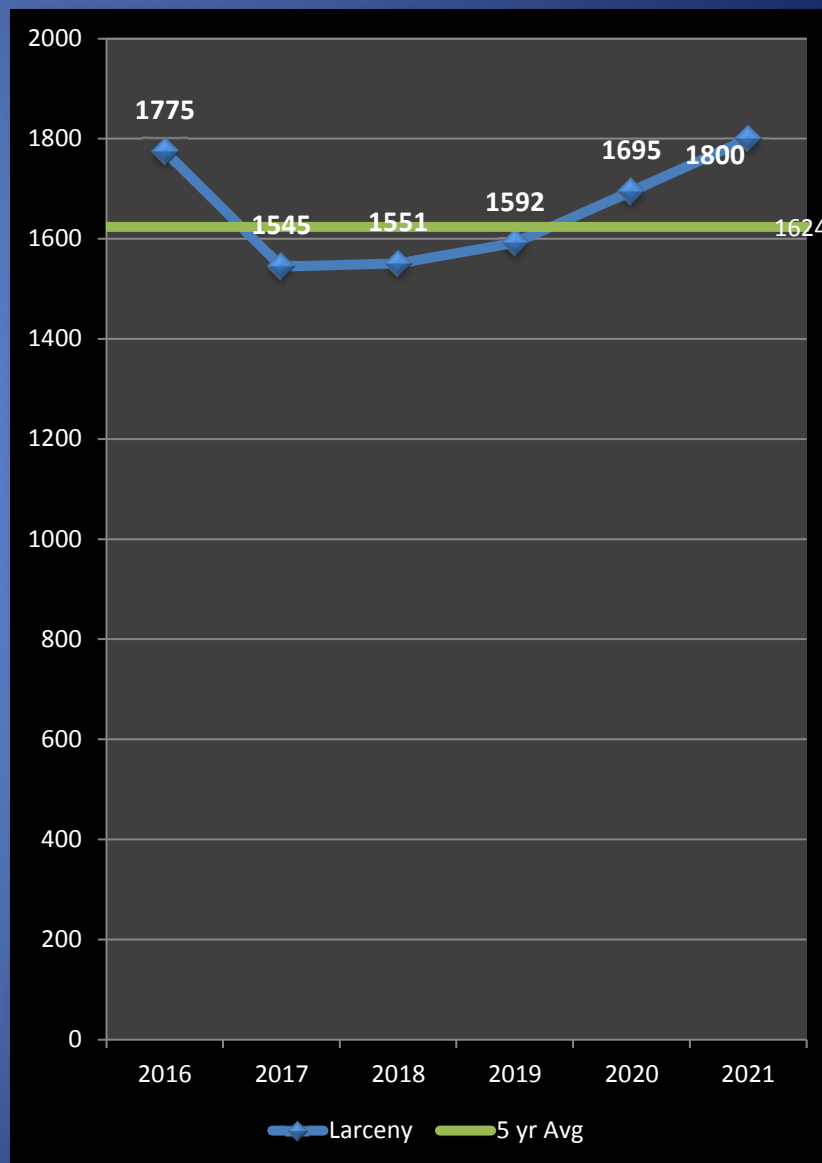
+15%

Previous Year

+6%

5-Year Average

+11%





LARCENY From MV

Sporadic Pattern

- The 407 thefts from cars reported over the first 11 months of 2021 reveal an increase of 137 incidents (+ 51%) above the number forecasted through November 29th of 2021. When measured against the total for the first 11 months of last year, a 33% increase has been recorded with 102 additional incidents counted. After recording substantial decreases for this crime in September and October, a 46% spike in LMVs was registered in November.
- The neighborhoods with the highest larceny from motor vehicle totals so far in 2021 are: Mid-Cambridge (76); Cambridge port (68); Riverside (51); North Cambridge (39); and Peabody (37). The neighborhoods with the lowest totals through the first 11 months of this year are the Strawberry Hill and the Highlands neighborhoods with 3 each and MIT with 2.
- Catalytic converter thefts had been a regional issue with Cambridge not experiencing any in recent years until a series of thefts were reported primarily in the Cambridge port neighborhood between January 17-18, 2021. Another surge of thefts occurred in the Inman-Harrington and East Cambridge neighborhoods over the first two weeks of February. After a nearly 3-month hiatus in converter theft activity, a pattern erupted during August with 25 thefts, mostly from Toyota Priuses (2004 to 2009 model years). This pattern resurfaced during November with eight additional thefts reported, with the major concentration in Riverside and sporadic incidents in the North Cambridge and Peabody neighborhoods.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

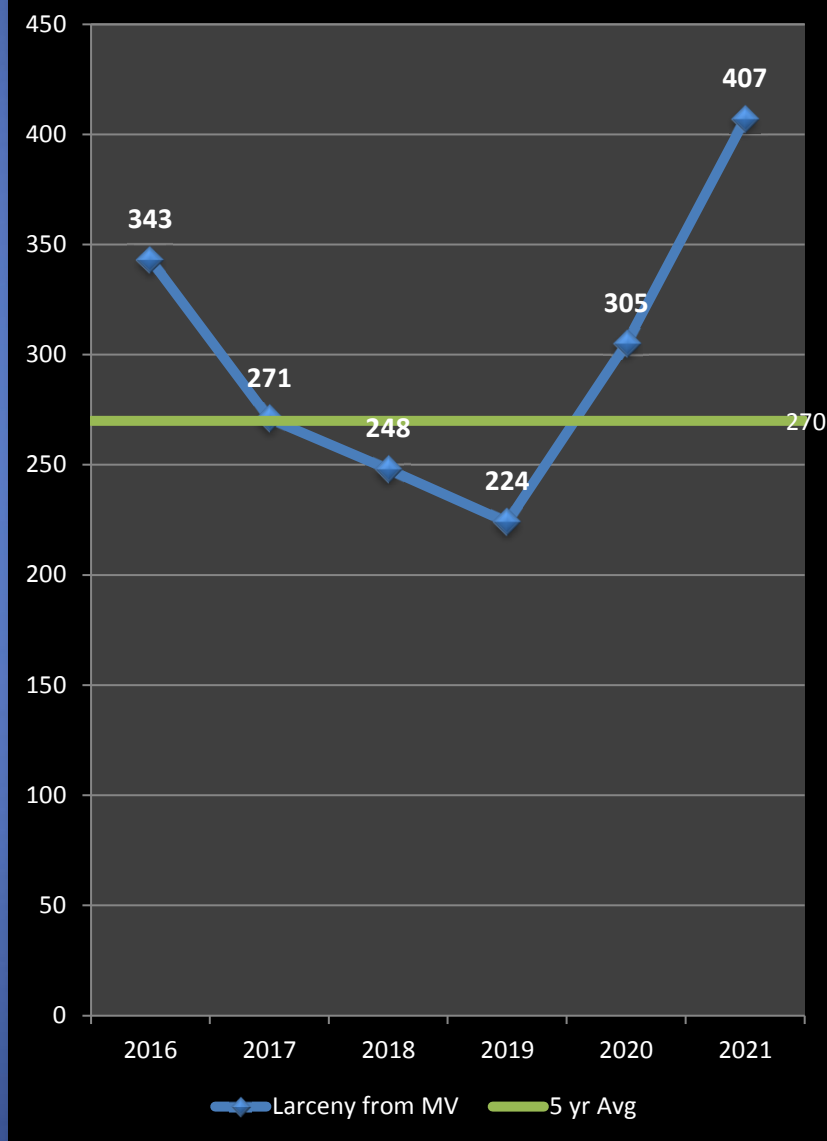
+46%

Previous Year

+33%

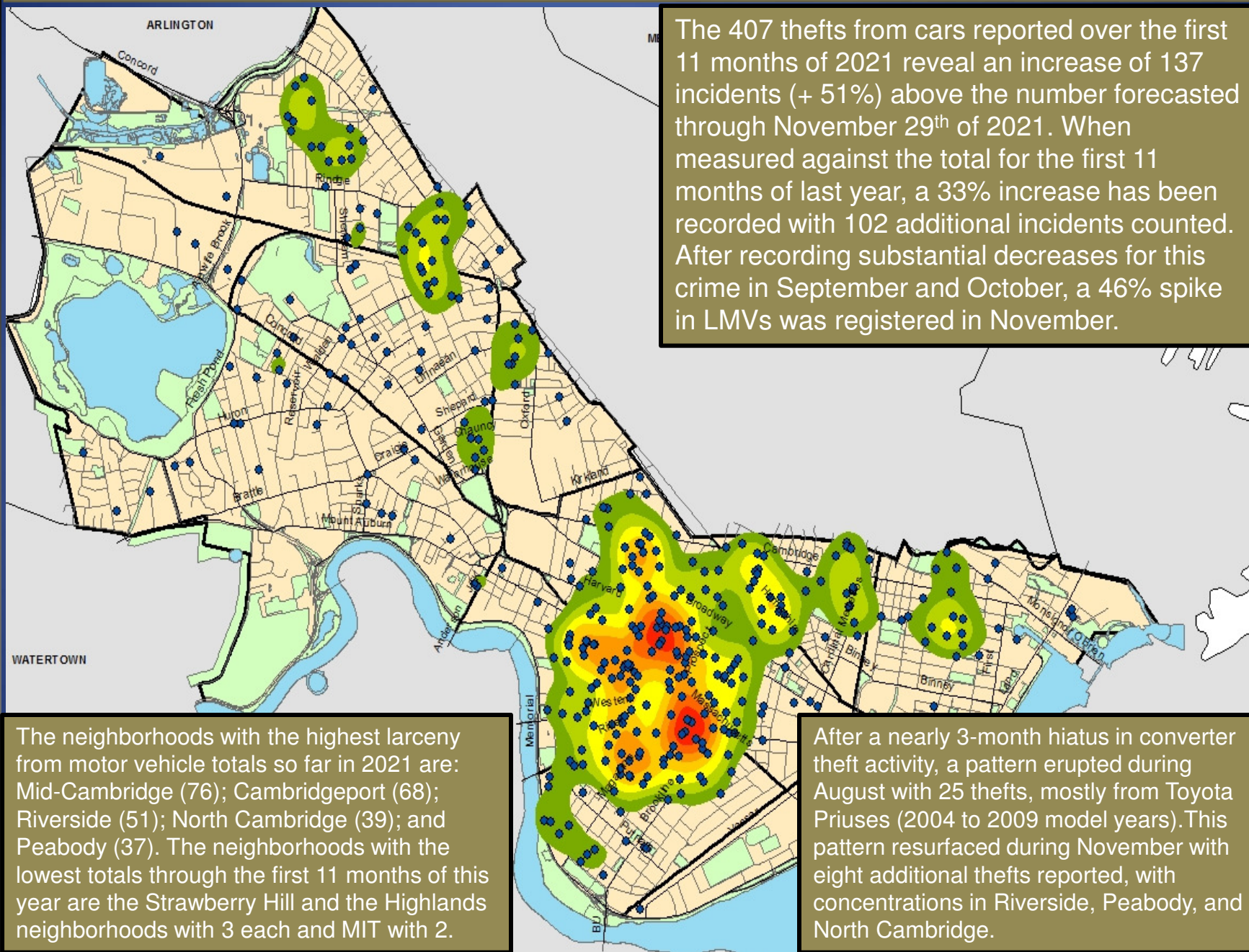
5-Year Average

+51%





Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Motor Vehicles: 1.1.21 – 11.29.21





LARCENY *from Person*

No Patterns

- Through November 29, 2021, there have been 94 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, up by six incidents (7%) when compared to the same time period in 2020. When compared to the 5-year average, there has been a decrease of 39 incidents (-29%). The sizeable decrease below the 5-year average is mostly due to the lack of patronage at restaurants and stores in the city because of the pandemic.
- Central Square has seen by far the most activity this year with 53 incidents, followed by Porter Square with 13. There have only been ten larcenies from the person reported in Harvard Square thus far in 2021. This is highly unusual, but most Harvard Square larcenies from the person involve diners or students, neither of whom have been out in full force in the past year. The numbers citywide are considerably lower than we would expect because of the numerous COVID-related closures of and restrictions at restaurants and shops across the city, where we typically see the majority of this crime type occur. The higher numbers in Central Square are mainly due to grab-and-run situations or incidents that involve individuals who are homeless whose property may have been stolen while they were asleep or otherwise distracted.
- The most common situations in which property has been stolen thus far in 2021 are thefts of nearby but unattended property (30) and thefts while shopping (22).
- There have been seven suspects developed for this crime type throughout the first 11 months of the year. Often when it comes to larcenies involving victims or perpetrators who are unhoused, the suspect is sometimes known but parties are not always cooperative or accessible for follow-up.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

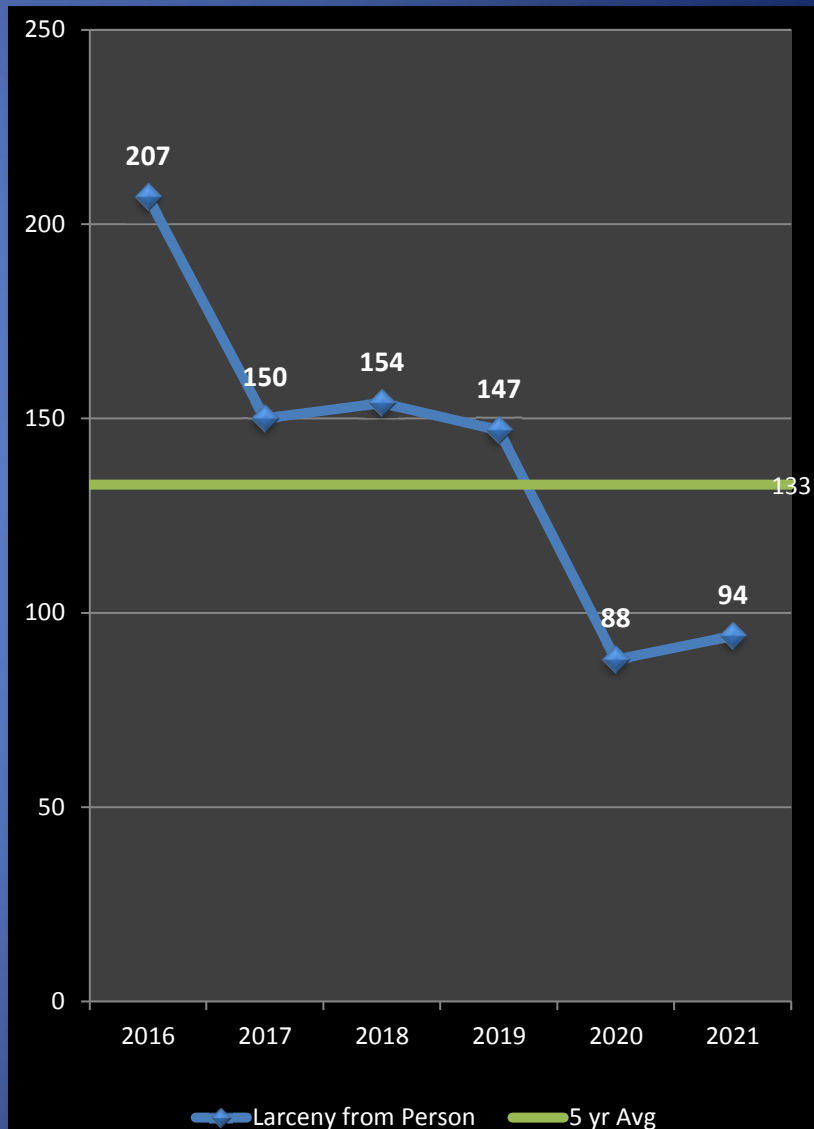
+180%

Previous Year

+7%

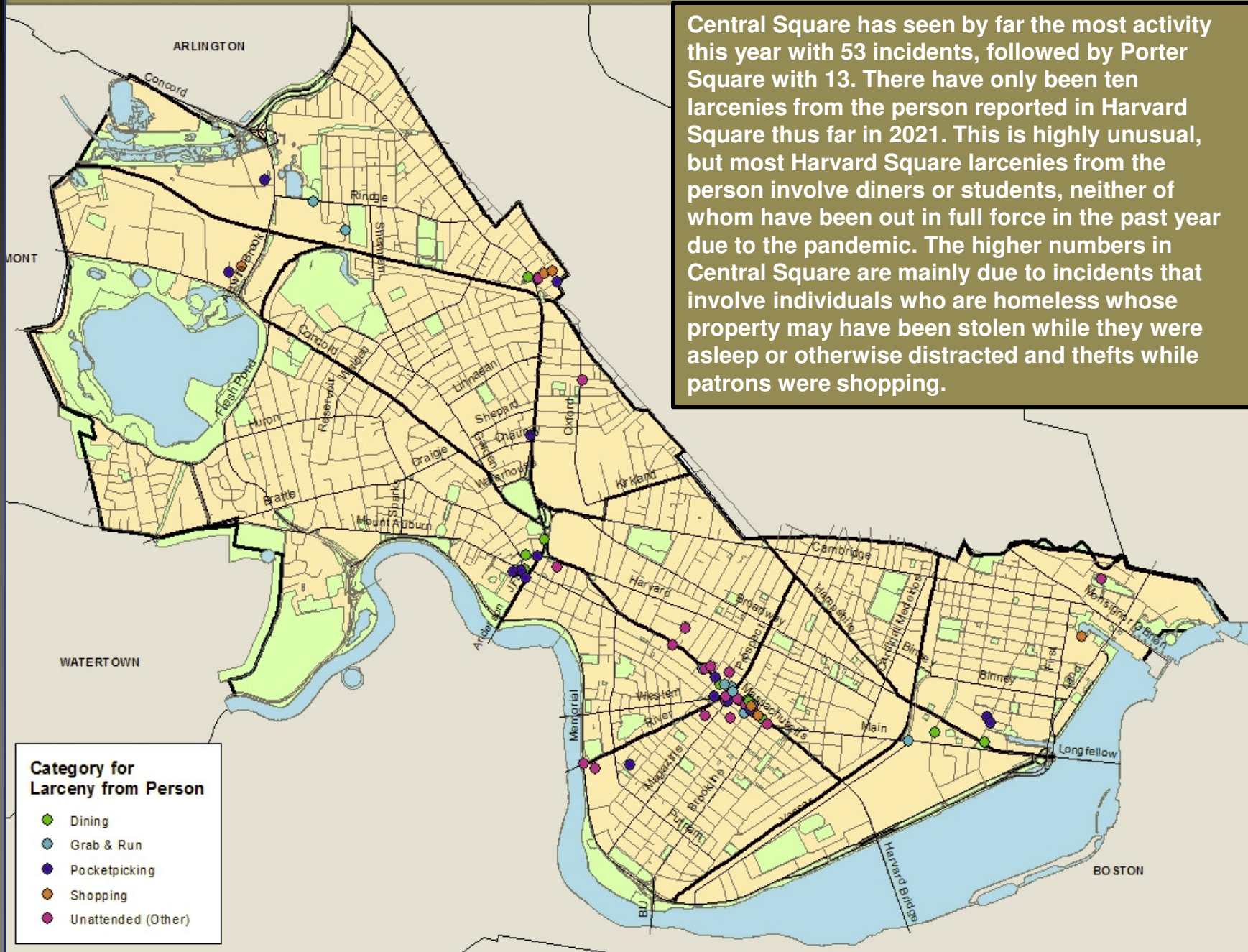
5-Year Average

-29%





Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Person : 1.1.21 – 11.29.21





LARCENY of Bicycle

No Patterns

- Bicycle thefts continue to be one of the major property crimes seen in 2021, incurring a 3% increase in 2021 when compared with the same time period in 2020, and up 40% (+170 thefts) above the 5-year average.
- Almost two-thirds of the bike thefts this year (or 70%) have taken place in the lower half of the city, with 380 of the 543 reported south/east of Harvard Square. However, there are hot spots in North Cambridge and the Highlands that account for a large number of the thefts in the northern part of the City.
- Although the majority of bicycles tend to be stolen from streets, sidewalks, and yards, similar to last year we continue to see an increase in thefts from personal garages, parking garages, and building storage areas.
- Of the 592 bike thefts reported thus far in 2021, 457 (77%) were reportedly locked at the time of the theft.
- A few individuals who are homeless have been found in possession of bikes that were reported stolen this year.

Top Neighborhoods for Bike Theft in 2021

Neighborhood	YTD Total	% Citywide
Cambridgeport	96	16%
North Cambridge	96	16%
Mid Cambridge	73	12%
Riverside	68	11%
East Cambridge	63	11%
Peabody	44	7%

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

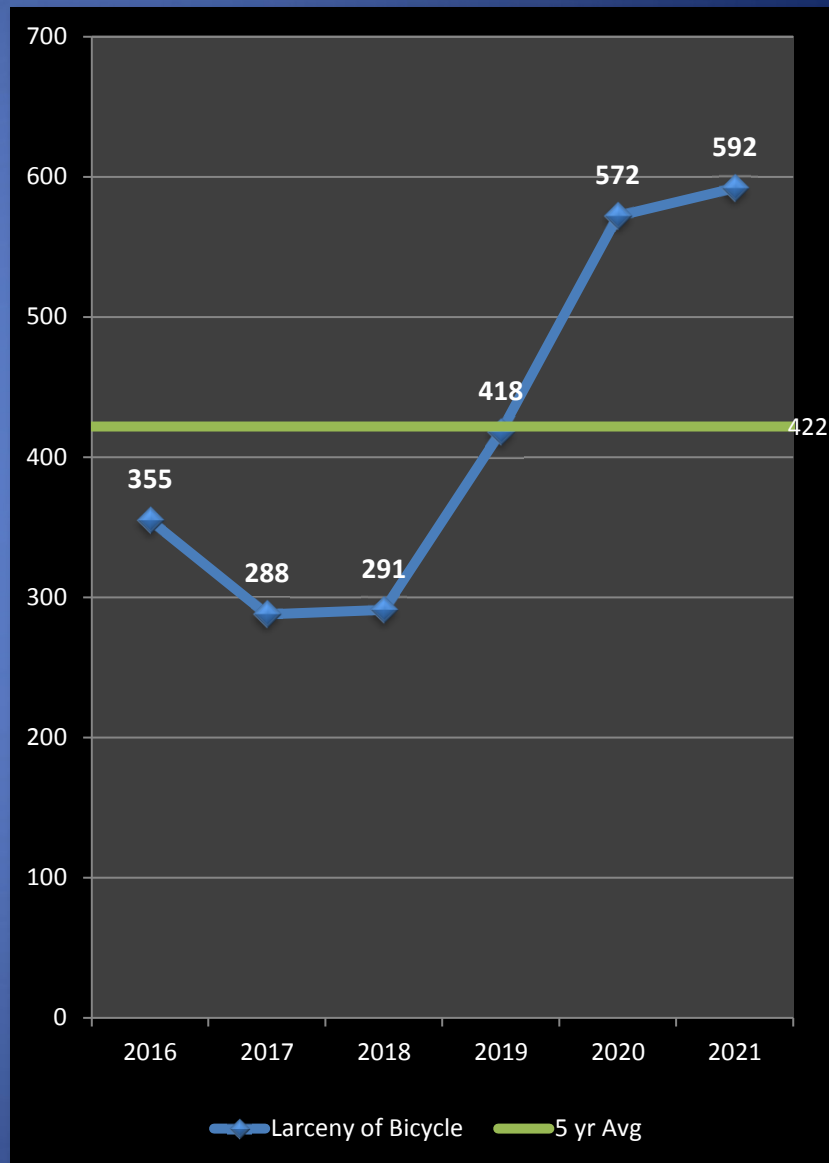
-14%

Previous Year

+3%

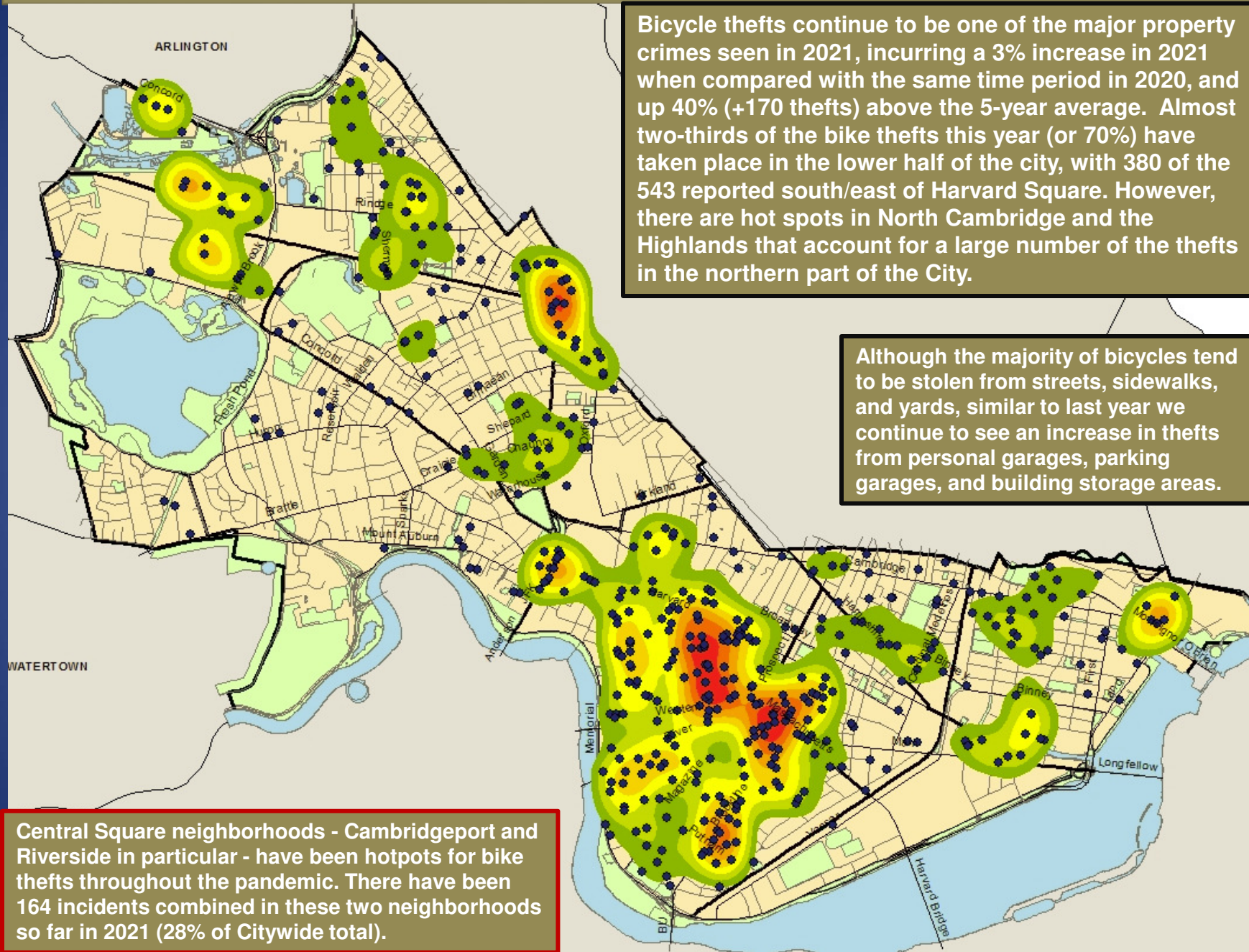
5-Year Average

+40%



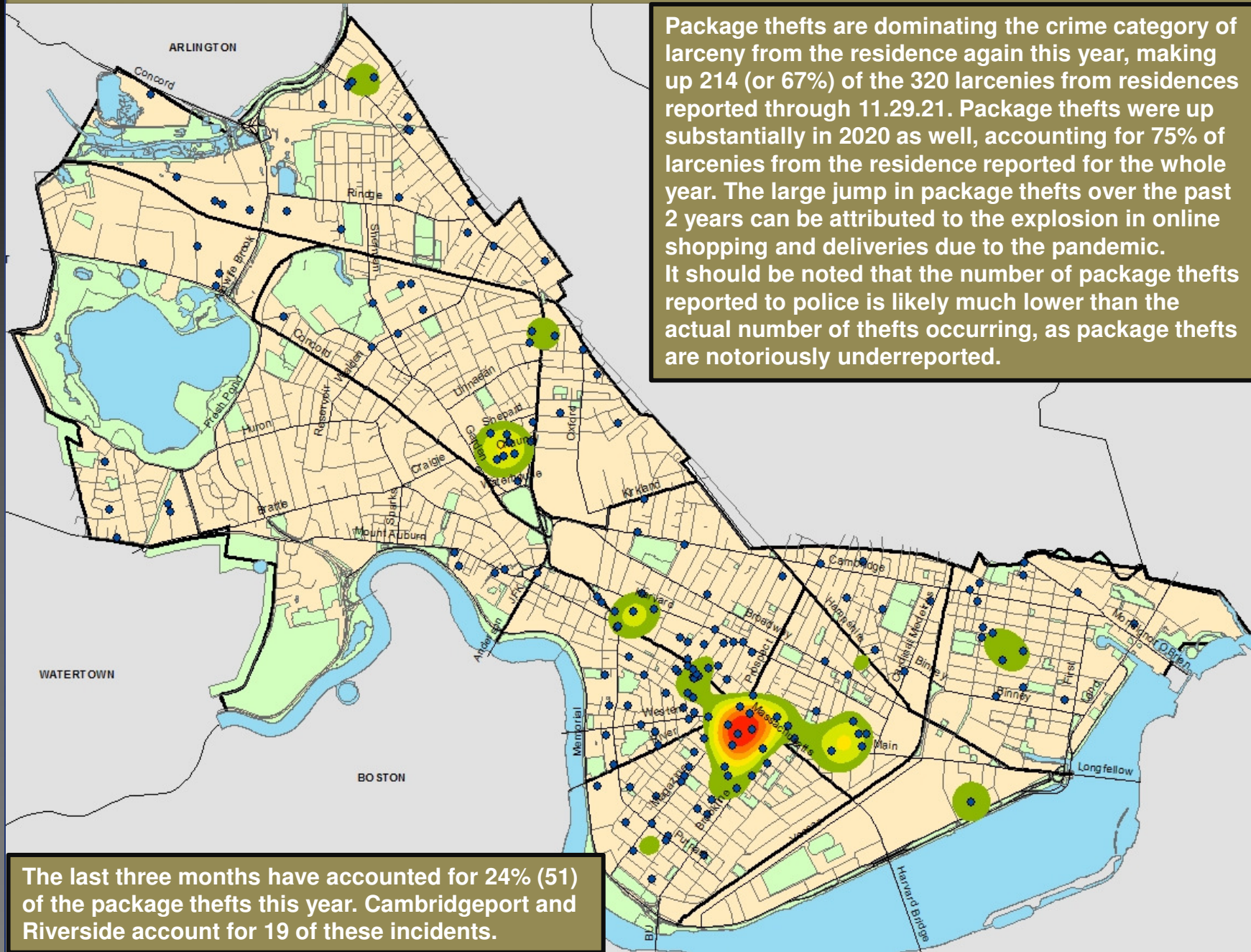


Geographic Breakdown of Larceny of Bicycles: 1.1.21 – 11.29.21



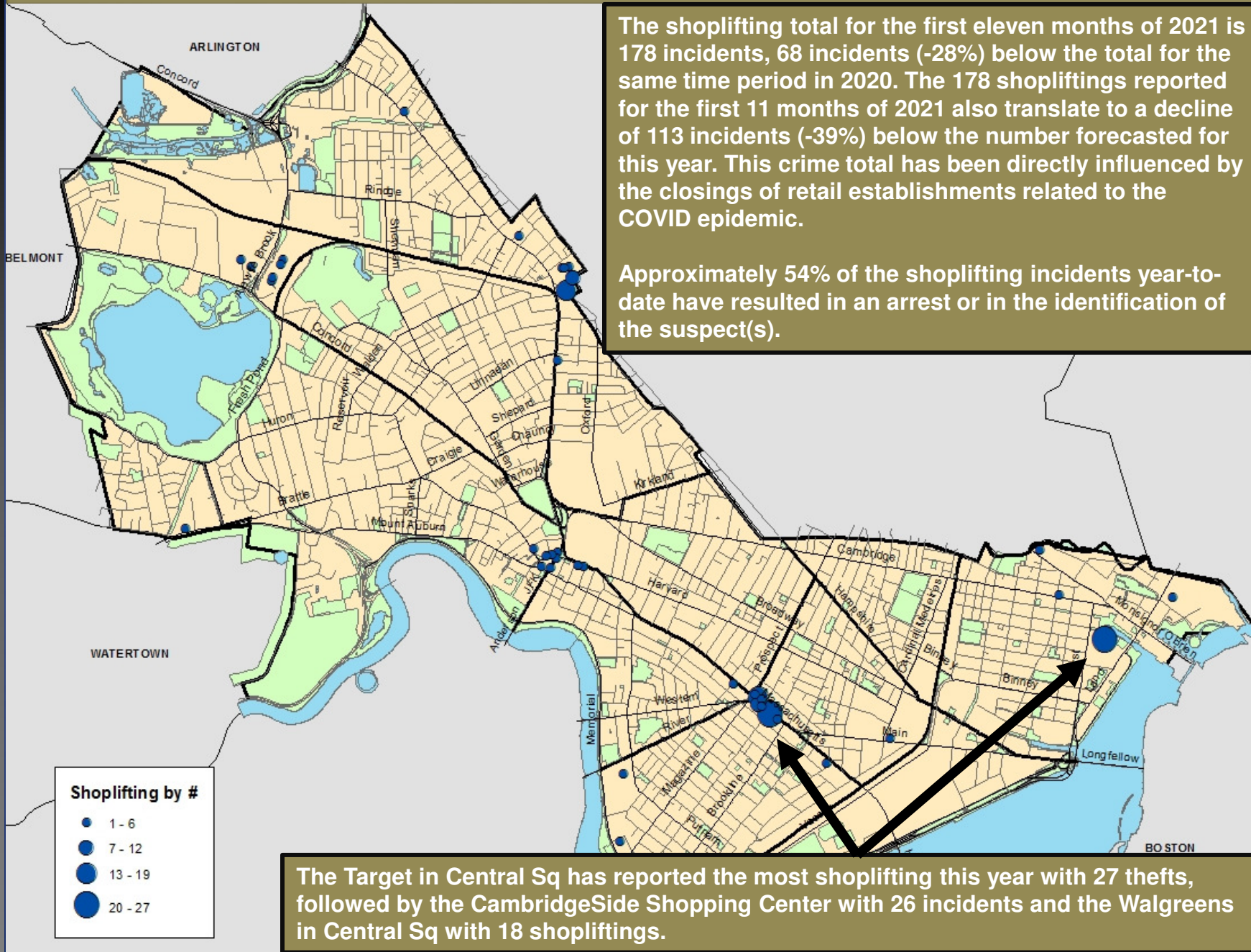


Geographic Breakdown of Package Thefts: 1.1.21 – 11.29.21





Geographic Breakdown of Shoplifting: 1.1.21 – 11.29.21





AUTO THEFT

No Patterns

- The projected 5-year weighted average for auto thefts through November 29th is 93, and with 115 reported in 2021 during this time, we are experiencing an increase of 24% this year. Auto thefts in 2021 are also up 46% over last year, with 36 additional incidents.
- When comparing the most recent four weeks (November) to the prior (October), there was a decrease from 10 incidents to 8, or -20%. There had been a large increase from May to June due to an increase in scooter, moped, and motorcycle thefts, as is common with the warmer temperatures, but this trend dropped off in July. The resurgence of two-wheeled-vehicle thefts in August attributed to a 300% rise over July. However, this trend has dropped off with the cooler weather in recent months.
- Twelve of the 115 thefts this year have been reported by auto rental businesses when their vehicles were not returned on time.
- The neighborhoods breakdown for auto theft totals is as follows: Riverside – 26, Cambridgeport - 17, North Cambridge – 16, East Cambridge - 12, West Cambridge – 10, Mid-Cambridge – 8, Peabody – 7, The Port and Agassiz – 5 each, Inman/Harrington – 4, the Highlands - 3, and MIT and Strawberry Hill each have 1.
- There have been 40 auto theft recoveries recorded so far in 2021 (35% of the total stolen).

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

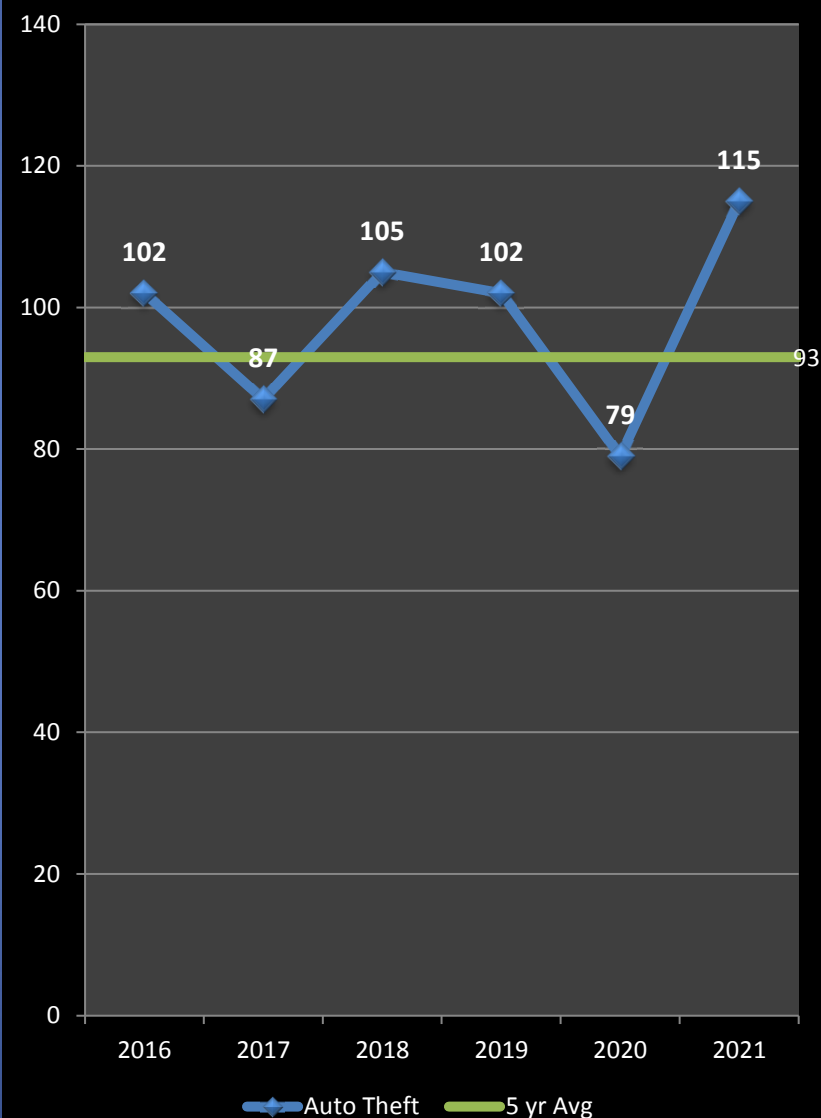
-20%

Previous Year

+46%

5-Year Average

+24%





Help Prevent Crime

And keep yourself informed!

To receive information from the CPD:

- Sign up with for the **Cambridge Alert Network**, to receive alerts about emerging crime patterns, neighborhood meetings, and crime prevention tips, by visiting www.CambridgeMa.gov/AlertNetwork.
- “Like” the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice
- Follow [@CambridgePolice](https://twitter.com/CambridgePolice) on Twitter.
- Visit our website at www.CambridgePolice.org for valuable information and reports including the Daily Log and BridgeStat, which is published on the first Friday of every month.
- Download our “MyPD” smartphone app at www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD.

To Share Information with the CPD:

- Call our Non-Emergency Telephone Number at **617-349-3300**.
 - Every call for service generates a police response, so help drive our resources by reporting things that seem suspicious or out of the ordinary.
- Send an Anonymous TEXT-A-TIP:
 - Send an ANONYMOUS text message to **Tip411 (847411)**. Begin your message with Tip650 and then type your message. You will receive a response from the Cambridge Police with the option to continue communicating. Please remember that this is not a replacement for 9-1-1. **If you witness an emergency situation, please call 9-1-1 immediately.**
- Send an Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail at www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips